

# The Early Bird



Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught and you will overflow with thankfulness. Colossians 2:7

## From the headteacher.....

Dear all,

It certainly has been a busy time with Covid and I am very proud of our children, and to you as parents, supporting them in completing work online and getting back to school as soon as they are well enough. Also to our staff team who have covered many different roles across school. The senior leadership team certainly learnt lots whilst covering the office. We thank our office team for all they do, and also to parents who were patient with us as we worked out systems. Octopus arms are definitely something worth having in a school office!



Although Covid has been with us, we have been determined to keep events going ahead for our children. There is lots to celebrate and our children have represented us incredibly well in the last week through the sports events. Some of our children took on the challenge of cross country and we also won a game of football! Thank you parents too for taking them along! The Chinese New Year work also undertaken by the children also made us smile... to see so many little tiger faces! We also thank the staff from our local Furama Palace Chinese restaurant, for the very kind gift of fortune cookies for our children.

My fortune said:

*The wheel of good fortune is finally turning in your direction!*

With the children, parents and team at St. John's it certainly is!

We have also been working hard on recruiting new members to our team, which we will let you know all about in the near future.

In the next newsletter, Mrs Jackson, our English leader will update you on our new handwriting scheme.

Best wishes and happy new year to all of families celebrating the Chinese New Year.

Mrs SM Bowyer

Headteacher

Issue 9: Friday 4th February 2022

## Dates for your diary

### Parents Evening

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February and  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

3.10pm– 6pm

Parent evening time slips  
will be with you soon.

### Half Term

Monday 21st February to  
Friday 25th February

## Class Prayer— Nursery

Dear God,

Thankyou for the animals,

Thankyou for the year of the Tiger,

Amen.





# Attendance

## Attendance Policy Reminder

To report your child's absence please **inform us by 9am**. This can be done by phoning 01782 238889 and leave a message.

If your child is absent by registration and we have not heard from you, we will call you. If contact is not made by 11.00am a member of our safeguarding team will make a home visit.

- ♦ As stated in last term newsletters, if your child has leave of absence a fine will be given. This has now started.
- ♦ An Application for Leave of Absence in Exceptional Circumstances During Term Time form needs to be completed at least a week in advance and handed to the office.
- ♦ If your child is off for more than 3 days we need to see medical evidence. If this is not seen absence will be unauthorised.
- ♦ Attendance and punctuality is monitored very closely, and if we notice that your child's attendance has dropped, you will be invited in for an attendance meeting.





## Covid update

We have met with our Education Welfare Officer who has given us some guidance, which is constantly changing.


If your child has any covid symptoms they **need** to have a lateral flow test. If positive, school needs to see the evidence. If negative they need to be in school.

When you phone the absence line please give as much information as you can.

- Name and class of child
- The reason they are off (please do not give the reason 'not well', we need to know what they are off with)
- If they have had or going to have a lateral flow test or PCR
- Result of test
- How long the child will be absent

### **This is the information we have received from the Education Welfare Service**

Schools should follow up with families if they are not satisfied with the reason as to why the pupil is not in school. Schools can request supporting evidence from the family. Where the school is not satisfied with the reason given for absence, they may record this using one of the unauthorised absence codes, in line with the [school attendance guidance for schools](#).





Bumblebees had lots of fun for our 'wow day' for Chinese New Year.



We loved having our faces painted as tigers and tasting different Chinese food.



Honeybees had a great time learning about Chinese New Year



We ate Chinese food, painted our faces like tigers and did some dragon dancing.





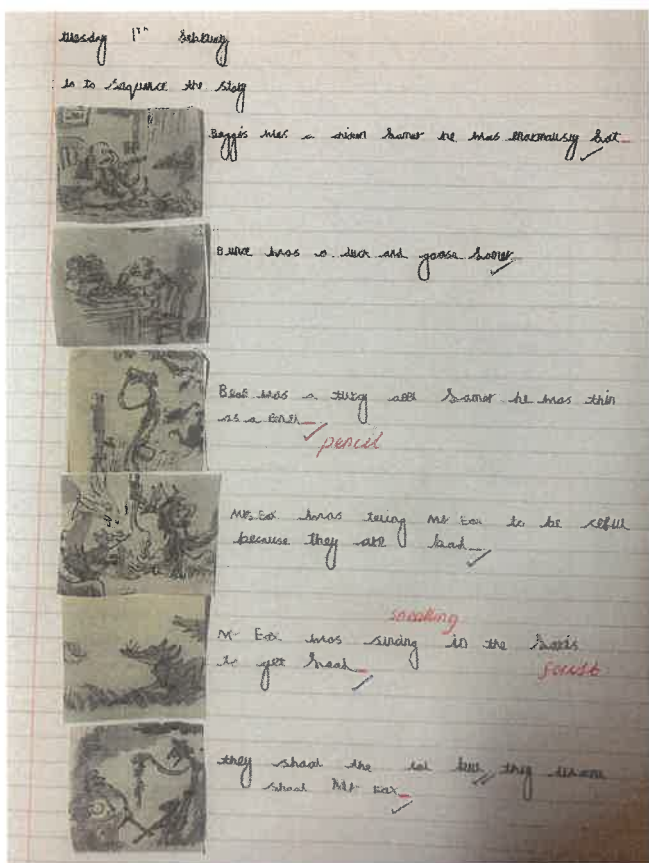


Year 1 had fun last week making art from everyday materials and junk. Here are Francesca and Sofia showing off their models!

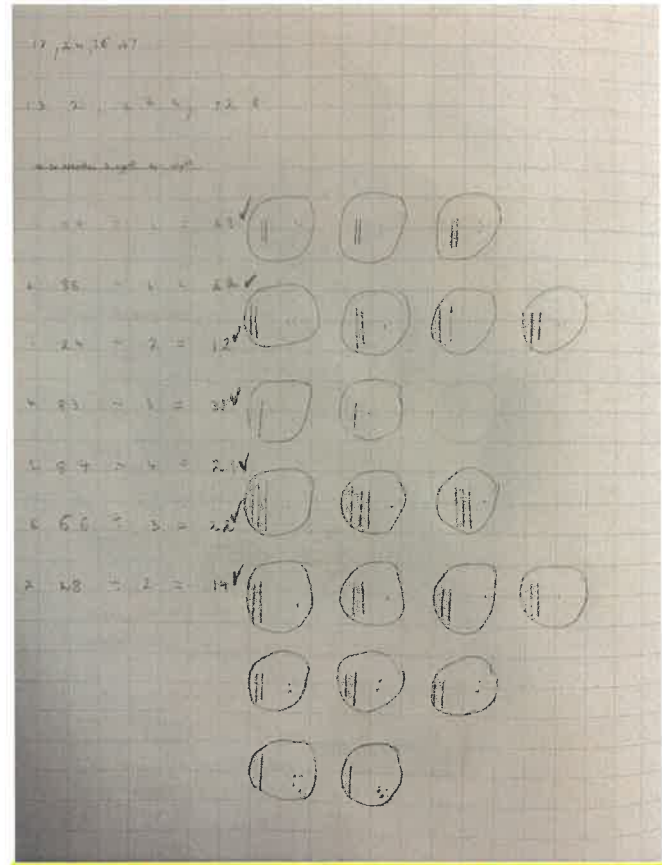
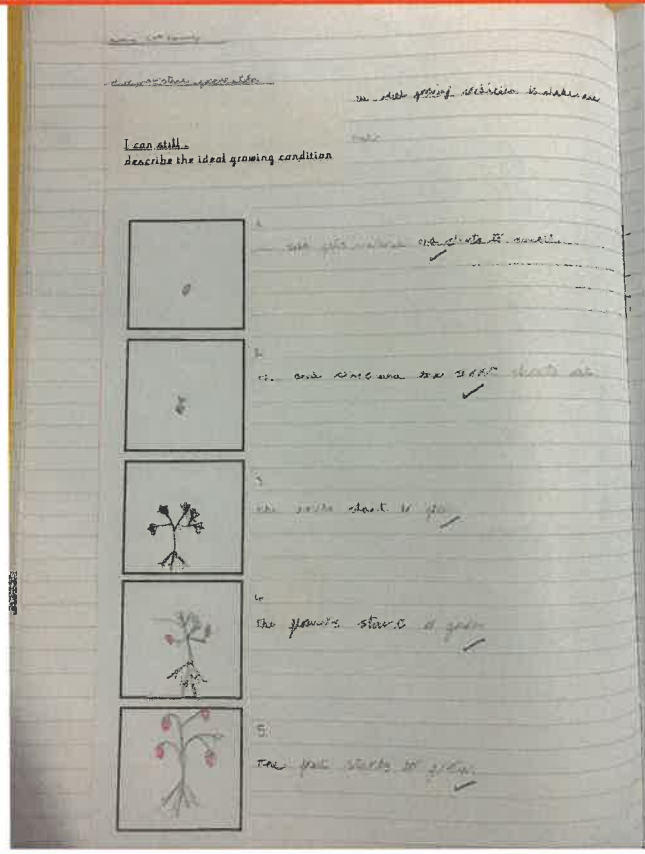


In History, we have been looking at kings and queens. The children chose a king or queen to paint. Here is Bobby, with his painting of Richard III.





In **Year 3D**, we are working really hard on our handwriting and presentation in all lessons! Miss Nickless is very proud.



In English we have been reading Fantastic Mr Fox and sequencing the story. In Science we became 'Flower Doctors' and dissected a flower and in Maths we have been working really hard trying to multiply and divide 2-digit numbers by 1-digit.





## Chinese New Year 2022



**Year 2 have had great fun learning about**

**Chinese New Year this week.**

**The class made models of  
dragons, performed a dragon dance and parade, learned  
how**

**the years got their name and lots more fun  
lessons too.**

**A big thank you to Furama Palace**

**Trent Vale, who kindly donated a fortune cookie**



## Sports News

### **Y5/6 Cross Country – Race 1**

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January, five of our Year 5/6 children represented St John's at Cross Country, competing against other schools from the local area. Congratulations to Ellie (finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the girl's race), Amira (26<sup>th</sup>), Kevon (finished joint 3<sup>rd</sup> in the boy's race) Jake (14<sup>th</sup>) and Oscar (41<sup>st</sup>), who all ran in the races, and finished strong to leave St John's in a great position going into the next race on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. I would also like to thank the parents of the children for their support during the race. – If you would like to join the Cross Country team, or have any questions about taking part, please speak to either Mr Buckley or Miss Pickerill.



### **Y5/6 Football – Fixture 1 vs. The Willows (away)**

On Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January, our Year 5/6 football team played their first fixture in the City League (North) away against The Willows. For many, this was the first time/opportunity to represent the school, and oh how they did us (as a whole) proud. The team consisted of mainly Year 5 pupils and was going up against a strong Year 6 team, who are amongst the favourites to win the league. The team from St John's showed great dedication and courage, coming away from the game as 1-0 winners, leaving both Mr. Buckley and Miss. Pickerill jumping for joy. After the first round of fixtures the league table currently, looks like so;

POS	Team	PLD	W	D	L	SF	SA	SD	PTS
1	ST JOHN'S	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
2	ASH GREEN	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
3	HARPFIELD	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4	PRIORY	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
5	ST TERESA'S	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
6	WILLOWS	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0

### **Y5/6 Cross Country – Race 2**

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February, our Year 5/6 cross country team represented St John's in their second race at St Joseph's. – A race that was a much larger distance than the first. Like in the first race, the team pulled together well and supported each other all the way. Congratulations to Ellie (finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the girl's race), Amira (21<sup>st</sup>), Zac, (19<sup>th</sup> in the boy's race), Jake (31<sup>st</sup>), Oscar (36<sup>th</sup>) and Aaron (52<sup>nd</sup>), who all ran in the races. I would also like to thank the parents of the children for their support during the race. The next race is at Thistley Hough on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February – If you would like to join the Cross Country team, or have any questions about taking part, please speak to either Mr Buckley or Miss Pickerill.

# St. John's CE(A) Primary School Foodbank

Over the years we have regularly supported Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank. We will continue to support them, but we would like our own Foodbank in school.

We are asking for non perishable food that we can keep in school in case of emergencies for our families.

## Ideas of required food

Pasta

Pasta sauce

Baked beans

Tinned Spaghetti/hoops

UHT milk

Tinned soup

